From: Kirk Kerekes
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement -- a national security issue

The core problem is both similar to, and different from the "Ma Bell"
breakup, which is the only exemplar of comparable scope in recent history.

Similarities:

1. Microsoft dominates the operating systems market not through overwhelming
competence, but through sheer size. Others have demonstrated superior
competence at operating systems software (eg; Apple). Because of this, there
is no way to logically argue that MS's dominance is "natural" or "good". It
is, instead, a product of freak conditions and aggressive marketing.

This is not just a consumer issue -- it is a national security issue. Due to
the Microsoft hegemony, military and security computer systems are being
implemented using grieveously insecure Microsoft products instead of
superior (but lesser known) alternatives. This is a Bad Thing.

2. Microsoft shows signs of aging badly -- it's recent Wintel offerings have
been ill-considered and ill-implemented. Much like the old "Ma Bell", MS has
institutionalized its incompetence and arrogance.

Differences:

There are meaningful alternatives to Microsoft products available now, and
there is no physical infrastructure element that needs to be divided.

Solution:

To dilute the effects of the accidents of history and predatory practices of
Microsoft, the only acceptable and workable solution is to genuinely divide
the company into separate and isolated corporate entities: An operating
systems division, and an applications division.

These divisions must be physically separate, and must be prohibited from
privately communicating with each other. The applications division must
proceed with its operations using the same information that is available to
independent software developers.

Any other solution is just smoke and mirrors.